

democracy depends on them. Carl is one of those people who deserve the Nation's gratitude for his public service as a community activist.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SGT.
ROBERT J. CHIOMENTO

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento. He died fighting the Taliban on July 17, 2006 in Khwaya Ahmad, Afghanistan, when his patrol encountered enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. Staff Sgt. Chiomento was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Every soldier that passes away has a story behind him, and has a family. The news of Staff Sgt. Chiomento's death was relayed to me by his cousin, Thomas Chiomento, my good friend and constituent. Thom remembers his hero cousin as a third-generation who has fought in combat. Their grandfather served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and his father served in Vietnam. We must not forget the individual stories of these soldiers who have served our country with courage and honor. Staff Sgt. Chiomento was a brave and gifted soldier who was awarded the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantrymen's Badge. He was the kind of soldier that boosted our pride in being an American.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he stood for. Our pride in Robert shall certainly live on—his life, his courage, his sacrifice and strength of character. The example of his citizenship and dedication to duty will be his enduring legacy. We will not forget his sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, life and service of Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento—"an American hero," and in sending our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Staci, his two daughters, Ambre and Syleste, his entire family, his friends, and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROL
WATSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watson for her service in the United States Marine Corps and subsequent volunteer work.

Carol enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately after graduating high school in 1952. After completing boot camp at Parris Island,

South Carolina and Motor Transport School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, she was assigned to Washington, DC as a staff car driver. Following her honorable discharge, Carol attended college under the GI Bill and subsequently entered the U.S. Postal Service. While with the Postal Service, Carol's hard work and dedication was recognized as she was promoted to Manager and ultimately Post Master.

Upon retiring from government service in 1992, Carol began a new career in volunteerism. After volunteering for 8 years at the Long Beach California Memorial Hospital and Teaching 55/Alive for AARP, she moved to Las Vegas and continued her work. Carol joined the Women Marine Association and the Women Veterans of Nevada. Her strong desire to assist her fellow veterans also prompted her to join the Veterans Administration (VA) as a Deputy Representative and volunteer at the VA Women's Clinic.

Earlier this year, Carol became the President of the local Sagebrush Chapter of the Women Marine Association and the Area Director for Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada. Some of her duties include recruiting new members nationwide as well as interacting with other volunteer groups. She is also working on fundraisers for the WMA to send packages to Iraq and for veterans here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Carol Watson. Her service to the people of the United States is to be applauded and her subsequent volunteerism is commendable. I thank her for her efforts and wish her the best in future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY STAFF SGT.
ERIC CABAN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On July 19, 2006, the Department of Defense declared that Army Staff Sergeant Eric Caban (United States Army, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces) died from injuries that he suffered the previous day during a combat reconnaissance patrol in Southern Afghanistan.

A native of Manhattan, NY, Caban moved to Fort Worth with his family when he was 3 years old. A year after graduating from Fort Worth Paschal High School in 1997, Caban enlisted in the Army. His first assignment was with the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served in a sniper platoon and was a team leader. His first deployment to Afghanistan occurred in October 2001. In that assignment, Caban participated as an airborne ranger who did a combat jump in what is described as an "operation that took the strategically important Kandahar Airfield."

Following his assignment in Afghanistan, Caban left the Army in 2002 to attend the University of Texas at Arlington. However, after a year in college, Caban decided his love was the military and he re-enlisted in 2004. Initially, he was a sniper instructor. He then enrolled in the Special Forces Qualifications Course and in March 2006, became a sergeant in the Special Forces—better known as the Green Berets—and returned to Afghanistan. During his

career he earned the Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals and, posthumously, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

His family and friends describe Caban as someone who was committed to defending his country and to battling alongside his fellow soldiers. It is these qualities of incredible courage, strength, and pride in serving his country that we see in young heroes like Eric Caban that makes us appreciate the freedoms we enjoy here at home.

I am proud to honor Sergeant Caban's service to the United States of America and to defending freedom around the world. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO 7TH ANNUAL SUPPLY
OUR STUDENTS CONCERT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 7TH Annual Supply Our Students Concert, which "will be held on August 2, 2006, in Laredo, Texas.

I commend Judge Danny Valdez, the lead organizer of the Supply Our Students (S.O.S.) Concert for making it one of the most successful fundraising initiatives in providing school supplies to the neediest students in the City of Laredo. He has helped make this concert possible for the past 7 years, and eased the worries of many parents about providing school supplies for the coming school year.

The children we educate today are our future, and we must endeavor to make sure that they are on the path to success by providing them the tools they need in order to accomplish their educational goals. I am proud of the support the community has shown for the Supply Our Students Concert and the involvement of the music industry in making this a successful venture.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the support of the community for the Supply Our Students Concert on August 2, 2006.

RECOGNIZING THAT ON SEP-
TEMBER 11TH AMERICANS
SHOULD HONOR OUR FIRST CALL
RESPONDERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the solemn purpose of recognizing the heroic sacrifices and ongoing efforts of America's First Call Responders.

Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001 claimed the lives of hundreds of fire fighters, law enforcement officers and Emergency Medical Services personnel. These First Call Responders have a long history of honorable and selfless service to the United States. This service has continued at a high standard, and these First Call Responders should be commended.